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ABSTRACT

The West Virginia Board of Education initiated an experimental program in 1958 for licensing graduates of regionally accredited colleges and universities who had not completed teacher education programs. This publication describes how West Virginia has utilized the National Teacher Examinations as a basis for professional licensure. (JD)

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LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

TEACHER CERTIFICATION
BUREAU OF LEARNING SYSTEMS

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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July 1975

DANIEL B. TAYLOR
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOREWORD

The West Virginia Board of Education initiated an experimental program in 1958 for licensing graduates of regionally accredited colleges and universities who had not completed teacher education programs. This publication describes how West Virginia has utilized the National Teacher Examinations as a basis for professional licensure.

This method of licensing of teachers has proved to be a valuable asset to the State and to those who have availed themselves of this opportunity. This edition of *Licensure by Examination, 1975*, accounts for several changes deemed to be desirable in the use of National Teacher Examinations, yet it continues to reflect the faith which the West Virginia Board of Education, the local education agencies, and the profession have in it as a practical alternative for the licensing of teachers who have not completed teacher education programs. By continued usage, monitoring, and modification of this program, the West Virginia Board of Education hopes to provide potential teachers with a choice, and in so doing, help solve problems of staffing in the areas approved for licensure.

Daniel B. Taylor
State Superintendent of Schools

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LICENSURE BY EXAMINATION

Original Authorization and Purpose

On the recommendation of the West Virginia Advisory Council on Teacher Education and Professional Standards, the West Virginia Board of Education authorized on June 17, 1958, an experimental program of teacher licensure based on three factors: college graduation, scores made on the National Teacher Examinations, and teaching experience in West Virginia in a classified school under the guidance of the supervisory staff of the county board of education. This experiment was planned primarily for: (1) the liberal arts graduate who had confidence in his ability to become a teacher, and (2) the professionally certificated teacher who believed he was capable of transferring from one grade level to another or teaching a subject for which his certificate was not approved originally.

Eligibility to Take the Examinations: Approved Specializations and Limitations

For certification purposes, the examinations prepared by Educational Testing Service, Princeton, New Jersey, and designated as the National Teacher Examinations, must be taken after the candidate has completed all requirements for a bachelors degree in an accredited college. Examinations are available in the following specializations: Art, Biological and General Science, Business Education, Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Mental Retardation, English, French, German, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Mathematics, Physical Education (men and women), Music, Social Studies, Spanish, and Speech. The holder of an expired Professional Teaching Certificate, which is renewable, must meet renewal requirements. One may not be certificated by examination in the specializations and grade levels for which a certificate was originally issued.

The Professional Teaching Certificate, granted on the basis of scores achieved on the National Teacher Examinations, may not be used as the basis for the issuance of a Professional Administrative Certificate or for an additional endorsement, other than by examination, until such time as it is converted to the Professional Teaching Certificate valid for a five-year period.

The Issuance of Certificates

A Professional Teaching Certificate issued provisionally for a three-year period may be granted provided:

(a) The applicant achieves the minimum scores on all test areas (Teaching Area and Common) as shown in Table I for licensure on the National Teacher Examinations in the specialization(s) for which he is requesting licensure.

(b) The applicant has completed all requirements for a bachelors degree from an accredited college at the time he takes the National Teacher Examinations.

(c) The superintendent verifies the applicant is employed to teach full-time in a classified school in West Virginia in the specialization(s) and grade level in which the examination was taken; or

The applicant who desires licensure in a specialization for which no teaching area examination is offered, may be granted a Professional Teaching Certificate issued provisionally for a three-year period provided:

(a) The applicant achieves the following scores on the Common Examinations: Professional Education 248; General Education 372; and the Weighted Common 620.

(b) The applicant meets the institution's approved program in the specialization if he is a graduate of a West Virginia institution of higher education and the college verifies the applicant has completed its approved specialization program and recommends the licensure of the applicant. Graduates of out-of-state institutions will have their credentials evaluated by the Division of Professional Development Systems in terms of *Standards for the Accreditation of Teacher Preparation Programs in West Virginia*.

(c) The State recognizes certification in the desired specialization at the bachelors degree level.

(d) The employing superintendent verifies the applicant is employed to teach full-time in a classified school in West Virginia in the specialization and grade level for which he is requesting licensure.

Additional Endorsements at the Elementary and Secondary Levels

The holder of a Professional Teaching Certificate valid for an academic specialization in Grades 7-12 or K-12 who wishes to qualify for an additional teaching specialization in Grades 7-12 or Music, Grades K-12, must meet the minimum score in the teaching area examination in order to have the additional specialization added to his Professional Certificate. See Table I for minimum scores.

The holder of a Professional Certificate valid in Grades 1-6 or 1-9 and endorsed for elementary education who wishes to qualify for teaching Early Education (ages 3-8) must meet the minimum score in the Early Childhood Area Examination in order to have the endorsement added to his Professional Certificate. See Table I for minimum score.

Licensure by Examination at New Grade Levels for Holders of the Professional Certificate

The holder of a Professional Teaching Certificate who wishes to teach at a different grade level or in special education (Mental Retardation) may be granted an additional Professional Certificate provided he meets the minimum score in the desired specialization and the employing superintendent verifies that the applicant is employed to teach full-time in a classified school in West Virginia in the specialization(s) and grade level(s) in which the examination was taken. See Table I for minimum scores. The renewal and conversion requirements outlined in this booklet are applicable to the Professional Teaching Certificate issued on the basis of scores achieved on the National Teacher Examinations. The two Professional Certificates may not be combined until such time as both certificates have been converted to Professional Certificates valid for five years.

TABLE I - MINIMUM SCORES FOR LICENSURE

SPECIALIZATION	TEACHING AREA	PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION	GENERAL EDUCATION	WEIGHTED COMMON
Art, Grades 7-12	631	248	372	620
Biological and General Science, Grades 7-12	686	248	372	620
Business Education, Grades 7-12	635	248	372	620
*Early Childhood (Early Education)	643			
**Elementary Education, Grades 1-6	651	248	372	620
Mental Retardation, Grades K-12	644	248	372	620
English, Grades 7-12	655	248	372	620
French, Grades 7-12	647	248	372	620
German, Grades 7-12	669	248	372	620
Home Economics (General), Grades 7-12	648	248	372	620
Industrial Arts, Grades 7-12	629	248	372	620
Mathematics, Grades 7-12	645	248	372	620
Physical Education, Grades 7-12 (Men)	631	248	372	620
Physical Education, Grades 7-12 (Women)	662	248	372	620
Music, Grades K-12	633	248	372	620
Social Studies, Grades 7-12	642	248	372	620
Spanish, Grades 7-12	652	248	372	620
Speech, Grades 7-12	622	248	372	620

*Teachers who do not hold a Professional Certificate endorsed for teaching Elementary Education must meet the minimum scores for the Professional Certificate endorsed for Elementary Education in addition to the Early Childhood teaching area examination.

**Elementary education is defined as teaching in a multi-subject elementary school instructional program or self-contained classroom. Only teaching assignments which conform to this definition are acceptable for the initial issuance of the certificate or for conversion purposes.

Renewal of the Professional Certificate Issued Provisionally

The holder of a Professional Certificate issued provisionally on the basis of the examination who has not completed three years of successful teaching experience in accordance with the specialization(s) and grade level(s) on his teaching certificate in a classified school in West Virginia, may renew his certificate by fulfilling one or more of the objectives of a Commitment to Continuing Education, which one must sign with the county superintendent prior to enrolling for renewal credit.

The Professional Certificate issued provisionally may be renewed for a three-year period provided:

(a) The applicant completes six semester hours of credit with a "C" average which fulfills his Commitment to Continuing Education (Objectives A-D only).

(b) The institution certifies that the credit earned was in agreement with the applicant's Commitment to Continuing Education.

(c) The superintendent with whom the applicant signed his Commitment to Continuing Education or under whom he is now employed recommends the renewal of the applicant's certificate.

The procedure for renewing a Professional Certificate issued provisionally is described in the Program of Continuing Education which is outlined in the booklet, *Minimum Standards for the Licensure of West Virginia School Personnel*.

For renewal or conversion purposes, all credit must be earned subsequent to the issuance of the certificate to be renewed and within the five-year period immediately preceding the date of application.

Conversion of Professional Certificate Issued Provisionally to a Five-Year Professional Certificate

The Professional Certificate issued provisionally may be converted to the five-year Professional Certificate provided:

(a) The applicant completes subsequent to the issuance of his initial Professional Certificate, three years[1] of successful teaching experience in accordance with the specialization(s) and grade level(s) on his teaching certificate and in a classified school in West Virginia.

(b) The applicant completes six (6) semester hours of credit with a "C" average which fulfills his Commitment to Continuing Education (Objectives A-D). Educational travel may not be used for converting to the five-year certificate.

(c) The applicant makes application for a five-year certificate not later than the third year following the expiration of the certificate which was issued on the basis of scores achieved on the National Teacher Examinations.

[1]A year of teaching experience shall be allowed any teacher who has been employed and renders service for at least two-thirds of the number of days in a ten month employment term. (See Code 18-5-15)

(d) The college or university certifies that the credit earned was in agreement with the applicant's Commitment to Continuing Education.

(e) The superintendent under whom the applicant was last employed recommends the applicant as a successful teacher on a form provided by the Coordinator for Teacher Certification.

(f) The superintendent under whom the applicant was last employed certifies that the applicant has completed three years of successful teaching experience in accordance with the specialization(s) and grade level(s) on his certificate.

(g) The superintendent under whom the applicant was last employed recommends that the applicant's certificate be converted to the Professional Certificate, valid for five years.

Persons who are regularly employed on teaching permits and are subsequently licensed by examination during the school year, may count this year of teaching toward the three years of experience required for the five-year certificate provided they are granted the Professional Certificate prior to the close of the school year in which they are employed on the permit.

It is assumed that the teacher who makes application to convert a three-year certificate to the five-year certificate shall be under contract in a West Virginia school system at the time recommendation is made by the superintendent under whom the teacher was last employed.

Regulations and Procedures for Securing a Certificate

In no case shall the applicant be eligible for certification if the testing date was more than five years prior to the date of application. Standards in effect at the time of application rather than date of examination must be met.

(a) If the candidate makes the required scores, he should secure an application for a Professional Certificate from his county superintendent.

(b) If the candidate makes the required scores, he should complete the applicant's section of the form and send it to his employing superintendent who will certify by letter to the Coordinator for Teacher Certification the applicant's teaching assignment.

(c) If the candidate makes the required scores, he should request the college from which he was graduated to send an official transcript of his credits to his county superintendent to be attached to his application when it is forwarded to the Coordinator for Teacher Certification.

(d) If the candidate makes the required scores, he should request Educational Testing Service to send a transcript of his scores on the examinations to the Coordinator for Teacher Certification.

(e) If the candidate makes the required scores, he should make application as soon as he is employed.

(f) The county superintendent shall mail the application form, transcript of credits, and letter concerning the applicant's teaching assignment to the Coordinator for Teacher Certification.

Testing Centers and Dates of Examinations

The West Virginia Board of Education has approved the following institutions to serve the State as testing centers for the National Teacher Examinations. The names of the centers and the test directors are as follows:

Bluefield State College	John Neill
Concord College	Kevin O'Sullivan
Davis and Elkins College	James Parks
Fairmont State College	William Julian
Glenville State College	Kermit Kinder
Marshall University	Robert Eddins
Morris Harvey College	Benjamin King
Salem College	Isaac Maxwell
Shepherd College	Harry Young
W Va. Institute of Technology	Robert School
West Liberty State College	Diane Slussar
West Virginia State College	Nelson Bickley
West Virginia University	Michael Yura
West Virginia Wesleyan College	Robert Galvin

Examinations are scheduled three times annually: July, November and February. Registration must be completed four weeks prior to the date of examination through Educational Testing Service, Box 911, Princeton, New Jersey. Applications may be secured from the local testing center.

The director of the local center can provide applicants with information concerning testing dates, fees, and examination schedules.